

# Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association  
December, 1983



**RARA MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 1983**  
**7:00 P.M. - Rock Valley College**  
**Room 222, Classroom Building 1**

# President's Log

We are rapidly winding down another year and I'm wondering where it went. Don't worry — we'll not try to recap it here. It has been a full and busy one for the club as usual though. For anyone who wanted to be involved, there were all kinds of activities. The latest of which was the 1983 Rockford Marathon. Aside from picking the coldest weekend of the month, maybe it wasn't too ban an idea to change the date. It helped us to spread out our commitments as we had several activities to take part in this past summer. Since the race was sponsored by a different group this year, we had the usual first-time bumps to get over. But, as usual, we managed to come through with flying colors. As for the runners, you should have been there to judge for yourself. Those who helped out in this event were Bill /KB9UR, Steve/B9IW, Paul/K9RNR, Frank/WB9OGD, Moe/N9CCE, Ziggye/W9MOS, Steve/KB9YX, Mark/WD5GYW, Chuck/N9CCH, Eric/WB9VEG, Kevin/N9EGF, Floyd/K9CUQ, Dean/WD9FLO and myself WA9NTT.

On the major physical side of Ham Radio, this past summer and fall has been a good one to have gotten some practical experience on antennas and towers. This has been the year of the really big ones. Just ask Marvin and Brad. I guess this is Ham Radio growth of sorts. At any rate, the mid-west shall surely be heard from this winter.

One of the things I'm looking forward to with the end of the year, is cleaning out the briefcase and starting over again. Although it is only a hobby and we're all in it just for fun for the most part, it's surprising how much paper work accumulates.

There is not very much that goes on at the board meetings that the general membership doesn't know about. We have talked about a lot of subjects, gotten a few things accomplished and still have a few left over ideas for next year. This is one of the things that keeps us going, I guess. One such thing still to be worked on is *Special Service Club Status* for example. Sometimes it seems to take a lot of talk and time before we get moving on things. But remember, all of us (*the club*), only help out as volunteers of a sort while enjoying one of the greatest hobbies in the world.

Thanks to Gene/KA9BOD, one project is now coming to life. That being the opening and operating of the Rock Valley College Station on Tuesday nights. We have referred to this as the Club Station.

With as much good help as we have had this year, the coming year for RARA we hope will be just as good or better. A big Thanks to all who helped in any way to make the officers of the clubs job easier. It has been an enjoyable year.

We would like to once again Thank Howard Huntington/K9KM for speaking at our club meeting in November.

We'll be looking forward to seeing you at the December meeting. It should be interesting, as Rockford Crime Stoppers will bring us a program.

From the officers and staff of the Ham Rag - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73, Bob/WA9NTT



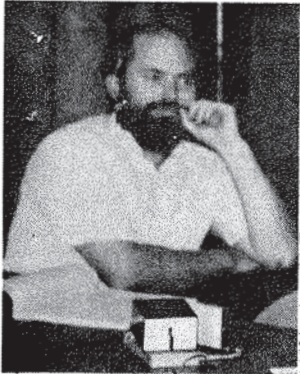
NOVEMBER 1983 RARA MEETING



Photos N9JUN & K19G, Layout K19G



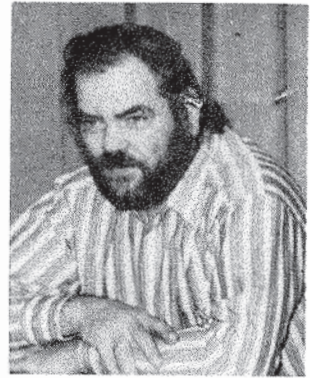
FALL 1983 NOVICE CLASS



Richard Loomis



Jeanne Luse



Bob Nygren



John Rippetoe



Paul Headland



Alinene McDaniels



Stephen Derr



Henry Hallberg

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310 REM RESISTOR & CAP VALUES
320 INPUT "CAP VALUE IN MICROFARADS";C
330 INPUT "RESISTOR FROM V+ TO PIN 7";R1
340 INPUT "RESISTOR FROM PIN 7 TO PINS 6&2";R2
350 T1=0.693 * C/1000000 * (R1+R2)
360 T2=0.693 * C/1000000 * R2
370 D=(T1/(T1+T2))
380 F=1/(T1+T2)
390 PRINT "TIME ON";T1;" OFF ";T2
400 PRINT "DUTY CYCLE ";D
410 PRINT "FREQUENCY ";F;"HZ"
420 RETURN

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## Secretary's Log

The November meeting was well attended with 49 people present. It was great to see Edna/WD9HDW, and John/WB8HVW. Bob Nyhren, one of the members of the novice class, also attended. Good luck to you Bob! I hope all of you come again.

Gene, KA9BOD, will start using the station at Rock Valley on Tuesday nights starting in the middle of January. Anyone that wants to join Gene there is more than welcome. You can use your own call or the club call which is W9AXD.

Anyone that's interested in joining the committee for "Ham Radio on the Road" should contact Shari/WB9SFT, or Bob/WA9NTT. Shari reports that so far Gene/KA9BOD; Russ/WD9FVI; and Carol/KI9G have volunteered to work on this. We definitely need to interest young people in amateur radio, and this is a great way to do it.

Our program was presented by Howard Hungtington/K9KM, who is vice director of the ARRL, Central Division. Howard presented a super program about various happenings in the ARRL including the space shuttle flight later this month. It was very interesting! After the meeting several people got to talk to Howard and his YL, Nancy/WB9HGN, while also enjoying coffee and doughnuts. Thanks for coming, Howard and Nancy! I hear they took the scenic route in.

If you haven't filled out a Ham of the Year ballot yet, please do so soon. Bring it with you to the next club meeting. We need your input on this. Thanks!

I sure hope we see a lot of you at the December meeting!

**73, Kay, N9DRL**



# Tech-Topics — December 1983

A short story—There I was, seated at the snack bar in front of the two meter rig, ready to act as Net Control, and a report comes in that my audio is only there part of the time. Now what do you do—no back up rig and only 35 minutes to post time. With an FM rig you can't even tell if the modulation is there, and when you're trying to talk nobody can tell you that it's broken. So let's talk a little about what to do and what is needed to accomplish that.

First, the problem at hand was checked by pulling on the mike cord while talking, since a broken wire in the cord is the most likely cause of such a problem. Reports were good, so a temporary sign-off was decreed and a run to the basement was made to get some test equipment. An aside here is appropriate, no fancy stuff is needed to something like this, and up came the multimeter and the all important schematic. A little work with the ohmmeter checking continuity of the mike leads while my son held the PTT button closed showed that the cord was indeed the problem, although not exactly where I figured. Some razor blade work, and a temporary Ty-wrap, and I was back on the air.

The above scene is one that will happen to any of us at some time. Now, what kind of simple tools and materials should you have around to make repairs like this? Try the following: For a repair— a couple of normal and phillips screwdrivers, a set of jewelers screwdrivers, and X-acto knife or razor blade, and some sort of wire stripper is handy. Follow with a soldering iron; for fine wires/connectors and most electronic soldering a small iron of 25 watts is fine, the little rechargeable by Wahl is particularly convenient. For the materials— shrinkable tubing and electrical tape is in order to protect the repaired wires. For equipment— a simple multimeter will serve for this and many other types of trouble-shooting, be it checking for resistance value, as here, or measuring voltage, etc. Don't worry about the fancy digital meters out now, unless you expect to be making fairly exact measurements, a simple meter is actually better for cases where you're doing simple checks or adjusting for peaks, etc.

Let's carry this a little further and assume that you are going to try some simple printed board construction. Then you will find small (4 inch) long nose pliers with cutters on the end handy. That will help get the components on the board handily. Note that these simple tools will serve just fine for basic repairs that form the most common needs when something breaks. Simple measurements to see if there is power where it belongs and check for broken wires, or simple repairs to hook up what wasn't any more are about as far as most of us want to go anyway. At least by looking at the simple stuff we can first avoid some cost and inconvenience to ourselves, and second, by having some of the tools around, can easily get some help from our buddies. Finally, with a few simple tools, we might even be able to put together some of those extra little items that always seem to show up with a new rig in the tiny plastic bags. Oh, a last thought, all of these items make sensible stocking stuffers for Christmas.

# Potpourri

The evening of October 22nd was big fun. Marv, KC9WF and Kay, N9DRL celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary on that date. Several HAMS from around the area were invited to their QTH to help them celebrate and to wish them many happy returns of the day. The list of names in attendance is long and believe everyone had a good time. One of the highlights of the evening was at nine p.m. when W9VZ, Claude started asking for check-ins on the nightly 6 meter net. About 16 of the crowd went to the basement and checked in. Our friend Claude was thrown for a loop as many had not checked in before and he couldn't copy their calls fast enough. Claude has broad shoulders and took it all with a grin. The refreshments and food reflected The Beckers good taste — HIGH CLASS!

On November 1st "CRASH", KI9G had a bang-up experience on her way home. A car hit her broadside and damaged her care quite badly. She probably awoke the next morning with a few sore spots but thankfully she didn't wind up in the hospital. Maybe this is one way to upgrade to a newer car.

WB9MMM and WB9SFT hve a new QTH. They moved into a nice larger home on Alma Drive near Alma Center Manor on Mulford Road. A group of friends were invited in for an informal house warming shortly after they moved in. Everyone wishes the Harlans much happiness in their "nest". Do you suppose Gene will be a true ham and wait for the snow and below zero temperatures before getting up his antenna?

I suppose everyone over-ate as I did on Thanksgiving Day.

Merry Christmas!

**CHUCK N9CCH**

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**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. BOX 1744, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110

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